



The Parochial Church Council of
The Ecclesiastical Parish
of
St Mary's, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire

Report and Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st December 2023

Registered Charity Number 1132319

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish
of St. Mary's Haddenham

Annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2023

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The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish

of St. Mary's Haddenham

Annual report for the year ended 31st December 2023

The Trustees present their report and the independently examined financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published in October 2019.

Public Benefit Statement

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St. Mary the Virgin and St. Mary's Centre.

Aims and Purposes

St. Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Cassa Messervy, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St. Mary's Centre and the Old School House, Station Road, Haddenham.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St. Mary's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music, and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

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Achievements and Performance

1. Electoral Roll

This year there was the usual revision of the electoral roll. The number on the roll is now 129 as of May 2024. It was 127 as of May 2023. Anyone who wishes to join the electoral roll can complete a form and go on the roll from the day after the APCM. The Acting Electoral Roll Officer is Jan Lemos.

2. Trustees' Report

As our congregations continue to grow we welcome many new faces at our services. We are pleased to see the church used as a venue for events involving the whole community for concerts, as a part of the village fete and, of course, the annual Community Christmas Tree festival, which again ran alongside the Winterfest Beer Festival bringing in many visitors from outside the village as well as local residents, many of whom have never been inside the church before.

With Churches Together in Haddenham (CTiH) we supported the Warm Spaces initiative which ran between November and February offering a friendly warm place to go for company and a soup lunch. We also had a presence at the Community Fair in the Village Hall and at Woodlands at a fair organised for all the Fairhive residents in the area. However, the highlight of the year must be the first ever Lighthouse Haddenham holiday club for a week in August with over 150 children taking part supported by 90 volunteers. Our thanks must go to all who planned this over many months and all those who made it possible with the many roles involved.

Our long-standing treasurer, David Morris, stood down at the APCM. We are very grateful for his many years of service supporting our church in so many ways. We now have a finance team consisting of a bookkeeper and 3 co-treasurers who meet regularly not only to keep our finances on track but are encouraging us to do more forward thinking and budgeting for bigger projects such as the replacement of outdated AV equipment in church and making St. Mary's Centre garden a useable outdoor space. We were also sad to see Chloe Wilcock leave the office in the autumn for an exciting new adventure and we wish her well but were pleased to appoint one of our church family, Jan Lemos, as our new Benefice Administrator.

A small group, led by Cassa, have joined Lead Academy which is a learning community to share best practice and experiences. We meet with a small group of other churches four times over two years together with coaches and mentors, among other things to re-evaluate our purpose, values and organisational structures. Our thoughts and conclusions are shared with the whole church family and form the basis of our future ministry in Haddenham.

3. Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is sharing God's love and showing people through our presence, time and resources that we care for them and that someone is thinking of them. Much of our pastoral care is being done by individuals in our church family caring for other church members, neighbours and in their leisure and work places. This is supported by visits from clergy members, home communion visits, visiting those who are sick or in hospital and supporting bereaved families. Our pastoral care team meets every few months to check if anyone is falling through the gap, to discuss any concerns and to identify any new needs. Small changes can be significant to keep people included, such as lifts to church and providing a hard copy of the emailed weekly newssheet for those who do not use computers.

We are pleased to see many new faces at our services, and it has been important that we are seen as a welcoming church and help newer members to feel part of the church family. We encourage volunteering as a way of becoming involved and there are many opportunities from Sunday coffee and occasional hospitality to A/V to IT to cleaning the brass ... the list is endless! We could not function without the invaluable help going on

behind the scenes and more offers are always welcome. There is a place for everyone! We continue to reach out to our wider community through visits with Welcome bags to the occupants of new homes, taking communion to our local residential homes and groups such as Pitter Patter and Monday Club. However, we have identified loneliness as an issue and eating together such as the Harvest lunch is much appreciated. We are considering doing more occasional meals to bring people together.

New home groups have started up including a daytime one and, to lessen the burden of leadership, they are being encouraged to work co-operatively and share leading and hosting where possible. Home groups are free to study whatever is appropriate for them but study materials are made available when requested and support is always available to them as needed. We now have a special monthly one for children and young families – the Big Question Tea – to explore those probing questions children ask.

Chris Headlong

4. Safeguarding

Parish Safeguarding Officer – Val Walker

Parish Safeguarding Officer with responsibility for Vulnerable Adults – Chris Headlong.

The PCC has adopted “Promoting a Safer Church”, the safeguarding policy statement of the Church of England, as its own safeguarding policy. Safeguarding is a standard agenda item at every PCC meeting.

The Parish Safeguarding Dashboard is being used to ensure that all actions and policies are up to date via the Safeguarding Action Plan which is reviewed regularly by the PCC. In addition, Val attended training for and registered with the new Safeguarding Hub which will help us track the safer recruiting process.

The Church of England Safeguarding guidelines require that DBS checks are renewed every 3 years. There is an ongoing process to ensure that all volunteers have the required DBS check at the appropriate level.

Safer recruitment procedures are in place for all volunteers working with children, young people and vulnerable adults. All volunteers are required to complete safeguarding training at the appropriate level and frequency.

All PCC members have current DBS checks and are required to complete online Safeguarding training at Basic Awareness and Foundation level.

Val and Chris have updated their training at Basic Awareness, Foundation and Leadership level. Val has also completed Safer Recruitment and People Management.

The procedure to deal with any safeguarding concern or allegation was reviewed and approved by PCC in November 2023.

All policies and procedures are reviewed regularly.

5. Resources

CHURCH:

General ongoing maintenance performed.

Planned:

- Replace fluorescent emergency exit lights with LEDs.
- Outstanding repair work from 2022 Quinquennial Report.
- Ceiling repairs above creche.

ST MARYS CENTRE:

- Brick wall at rear rebuilt
- General ongoing maintenance performed.
- Roof repairs ongoing.

Planned work:

- Yew tree at front is partly dead and causing damage to brick wall – application to remove tree in process and then to remove flower bed and assess any repairs to wall.
- Replace fence at rear – quotes have been received.
- Garden space plan now that it has been cleared.
- Insulate ceiling of attic room (carried over but not considered urgent).

OLD SCHOOL HOUSE:

General ongoing maintenance performed.

Outstanding work:

- Periodic on-going redecoration during gaps in tenancy
- Replacement of old radiators – future during tenancy gap

6. Children's Church

Children's Church (CC) meet on 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month, in term time only. During the summer term of 2023, we followed the topics in church – the resurrection story.

With the start of the new academic year in September 2023, CC was able to meet on most 2nd and 4th Sundays. Children register on line each year using a google form, which

both Jan and Cassa can edit. During the Christmas term we used material from Messy Church books looking at journeys from the mountains down to the sea.

During the Lent term we used online resources to explore the stories after Christmas – the welcome (Jesus welcomed into the temple), water (baptism), wedding at Cana and The Word. On the 1st and 3rd Sunday Philippa then brought a simple craft item into church for the children to decorate during the sermons using a 'holy doughnut'. Tina Wark was involved with creating the doughnut. This seemed to work well and CC plan to continue this into the summer term 2024, again following the topics used in CC.

The average age of the group of children who regularly attend is about 5 so we have chosen suitable material for this age group.

Cassa has become very involved with CC and has attended the CC meetings. Cassa is keen to intertwine CC with all services as well as involving the children in all services. The other leaders are Loraine Milmer, Anna Kittel and Liz Chivers. In addition, we have had Josh Chivers join us as part of his Bronze DofE volunteering and Marie Hulcoop, who are both under 16 volunteers. Suitable safeguarding and child protection training has been put in place.

Philippa Blowfield continues to administrate and co-ordinate CC. We usually have between 3 and 6 children attending per session, a small increase from last year.

Future Plans

To continue to encourage children to attend CC. Try to increase numbers by offering a more constant presence in church with a simple craft during the sermons. Advertising CC in church at popular services. Engage with the local community especially through Lighthouse.

Philippa Blowfield

7. Young Families

A focus on young families remains a key part of our church family life and can not easily be seen in isolation. There are of course some elements of the ministry where young families may have more of a focus but it is not neat and tidy, it is more like a marble cake than a batten-burg!

Opportunity is created for fun, relationship building, church familiarity and spiritual growth, to name but a few of the elements undertaken.

- Baptism preparation – this continues to be a very important aspect of ministry, meeting people where they are on their spiritual journey and feeding their faith.
- Children's Church – remains steady with increasing links into All age services (see CC report)

- Schools work – a CTIH venture. Such a blessing to have positive links with all the schools allowing regular assemblies to be taken by the Open the Book team.
- St Mary's School service – monthly service held in the church. Children are contributors, with parents, grandparents and carers welcome.
- All age worship services – inclusive with increasing numbers of activities for children.
- Pitter Patter – a drop in playgroup for 0-3yr olds, parents, grandparents and carers welcome. 9.30 – 11.00am. Whilst numbers fluctuate, it is usual for numbers to be around 20 but on occasions this is as many as 30 children. It is such a blessing to meet with the children, but just wonderful to meet the attached adult and chat. The relationship building at this stage goes way beyond the walls of St Mary's Centre.
- Big Questions - (family home-group maybe the best description), aims to meet monthly but varies depending on what is possible for those that attend. Involves food and fun, increasing numbers this year.
- Haddenham Lighthouse – August 2023 saw a huge success for the first Haddenham Lighthouse. This is a CTIH initiative, with volunteers from all the churches in the village and including Christians who live in the village but worship outside of the village. It will run again this August. This can only run because of the huge amount of work undertaken by clergy and volunteers – thank you. Once again, the grounds of the Community Junior school will be used together with a small part of the school building, marquees will be erected and the fun will begin! On the Saturday before Easter Sunday, there was a 'Pop up' Easter Lighthouse held in the Village hall, craft, cake, music and Lighthouse fun. The event was well attended with about 40 children, some of whom had not attended the main Haddenham Lighthouse last year, but might now! The theme for this year is 'Jesus Rocks', we can't argue with that.

Lorraine Milmer

8. Working with Haddenham Schools

My sincere thanks go to the whole fantastic ecumenical Open the Book team – Olive, Andy, Cassa, Jenny, Ann, Jonny, Katharine and Jan, with help from many others. Nigel Featherston will be joining the team in the summer term. In addition, a new member of Haddenham Baptist Church has also expressed an interest in joining us. We work in pairs on a rota basis visiting all three Haddenham schools every week to deliver assemblies including a Bible Story, a song and a time of reflection and prayer.

In July 2023, we ran an interactive workshop in the Junior School for Year 6 students about the challenges and excitement of moving up to secondary school. This prompted some very interesting discussions and gave the children the opportunity to share their feelings. We gave each child a copy of the "It's Your Move" booklet published by Scripture Union. We also hosted the "Celebration of Moving On" in church for the 60 children leaving St Mary's School. Several members of the Open the Book Team presented individually named Bibles to each child as a gift from St Mary's Church.

We have continued our monthly “Family Service” in Church for St Mary’s School children, staff and parents. It’s wonderful to welcome the whole school into church and it’s always a positive and lively atmosphere! Parents are invited to join us for refreshments before the service and we have seen numbers steadily increase. We are hugely grateful to members of the AV team and the volunteers who help with coffee, which is much appreciated by both parents and school staff.

In December we led Christmas services for all three schools: a Christingle service for the Infants School in Haddenham Baptist Church; a Nativity service for St Mary’s School in St Mary’s Church and Lessons and Carols services for the Junior School in St Mary’s Church. In addition, we also ran a “Christmas Carousel” activity morning in St Mary’s School. The Spring Term ended with a full week of Easter activities including an “Easter Carousel” activity morning in St Mary’s School, an Easter service for Haddenham Infants school in Haddenham Baptist Church and a whole school Easter assembly in the Junior School. All our Christmas and Easter services are fully interactive, involving dozens of children dressing up and helping to act out the relevant story.

We have a growing collection of costumes and props, which we are grateful to store in Haddenham Methodist Church.

What a privilege it is for us to have the opportunity to share God’s word with over 630 children and their teachers in Haddenham’s three schools! It brings us joy when children say hello to us around the village, often using our names, telling their parents “That lady (man) comes into my school or “That’s the lady (man) from church!” We are very much looking forward to another year of telling more Bible stories during weekly assemblies and monthly school services.

Francesca Flaxton

9. Monday Club

We continue to meet twice monthly on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at St. Mary’s Centre unless either falls on a Bank Holiday. This ties in with the Sixty Plus Club’s monthly meeting day on 3rd Wednesdays. We also promote the Baptist Church’s monthly Vintage Church.

We currently have 27 members but our numbers are slowly declining with more in poor health both physically and mentally which brings its own challenges. Most weeks there are 18-20 people attending and as the majority of members are aged 80+ with a significant number over 90 with our oldest and approaching her 97th birthday this is an achievement! Transport is therefore more of an issue as several members who used to arrive independently either walking or driving now need a lift and it is not unusual to have to get lifts for up to 10 people. We are very grateful for the wonderful support we get from our church family with lifts as well as other regular volunteers without which we could not function.

Our programme continues in the same vein with visiting speakers, games afternoons, and tea and chat socials. We were thrilled to have the unique opportunity of hearing about the King's coronation first hand from the husband of one of our regular volunteers who was invited to the ceremony in Westminster Abbey! He brought his official invitation and other memorabilia to share with us. 26 of us enjoyed a meal together at Haddenham Garden Centre in June and were pleased that Cassa and Clare could join us. Sharing meals together is very important when living alone and we do this as often as we can. Cassa has become well recognised as she drops in to chat with members whenever she can and as many of them are not church goers it is encouraging to be able to reach our older community in this way. We always ask her or Clare to do something special for us to share the Christian message of Easter and Christmas.

Ann and Chris will always be grateful for offers of help and give a huge thank you to those who are already supporting the Club.

Ann Warris and Chris Headlong

10. Start the Week

We continue to meet on the first and third Mondays of the month in church, beginning with coffee followed by an hour or so's study session, a time for prayer and often a hymn. It is very much a 'drop-in' group but we usually have around 15-18 ladies each time, many of whom attend St Mary's but we also have regular members who attend other churches in the village and beyond.

In this past year we have been looking at women in the Bible, Psalms and the book Embracing Justice. The group is usually led by a different person each time, each bringing their own individual style and ideas, and it has been good to see a few more people willing to lead. We have had some interesting discussions and opportunities to discuss living our lives as Christians in today's society.

A couple of times a year we have a social get-together, meeting up for coffee, and it's lovely to see new friendships being formed.

"What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me – practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you." Philippians 4:9

Jan Lemos

11. Music

For many years we have been blessed with a wonderful group of talented musicians at St Mary's and this year is no exception, welcoming new musicians to join us, enhancing and leading worship in all styles, for both the traditional and modern-worship services. This is

a rare occurrence when one considers many churches these days have to make do with recorded music or none at all. There are times when our own pianists/organists are assisting by playing at other churches in the Benefice.

Preparation, prayer, resourcing music and practising are all necessary to lead our growing congregations in their musical worship through singing songs and hymns, whether uplifting or for reflection. With a regular pattern of services each month, the lead musician and the service leader communicate to select appropriate songs /hymns. In addition, an enthusiastic group of singers loves to support the singing at weddings. Funerals and baptisms require musical input too. Choirs rehearse for special services, especially for the 9 Lessons and Carols at Christmas. The successful Christmas Tree Festival Praise continues to be held for those who enjoy a 'modern take' on carols.

The congregation at 9am Holy Communion has the opportunity to sing traditional hymns ably led by our organists. Occasionally a small choir, a new innovation directed by David, sings at this service.

10.30am Morning Worship tends towards contemporary songs or sometimes a mixture of old/new led by a varying group of musicians or the worship band. It has been encouraging to hear positive comments from members of the congregation and we are grateful to the Sound and AV team for their hard work behind the scenes to prepare for the services.

Evening Praise restarted last autumn and hopefully will become a regular monthly service of praise and reflection for those who wish for extended contemporary spirit-filled worship led by the band.

Also, let's not forget that St. Mary's is an excellent venue for concerts – an opportunity for outreach in our expanding village. Music is a vitally important part of our ministry at St. Mary's as we give glory to God.

"The true heart of worship gives glory only to God, not to itself. It is indeed all about Him." (Matt Redman -Christian song writer)

Jenny Hardy

12.Haddenham Bell Ringers

The St Mary the Virgin, Church at Haddenham Bell Ringers (the 'Ringers') have rung at all the Sunday services from January through to December 2023. The ringers have continued to ring for half an hour before Sunday morning services starting at 10.00 am through 2024, and commit to doing so for 2024, subject to their being a sufficient number of ringers who attend to ring.

The Ringers also rang for the following exceptional events during the year:

- The ringers took part in the National and Commonwealth wide ringing for the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla in the form of general ringing. After it was followed by a celebratory Quarter Peal of Grandsire Triples.
- This occasion of ringing were all part of Nationwide Ringing. On these occasions our Tower Captain Mr Phillip Rose and Steeple Keeper Mr Melvyn Rose were leading the ringers.

The Ringers rang for 5 weddings in 2023 where bells had been requested, with the help of ringers from various other local Towers. St Mary's Ringers will also reciprocate and help out at other local Towers if they are short of ringers at their Towers. There was an additional wedding at St Marys church, where the couple organised their own band of ringers to ring at the wedding.

Two further Quarter Peals were rung by the Ringers of Grandsire Doubles. There were no visiting bands of ringers whom St Mary's Ringers hosted during 2023. Practice nights on Wednesday evenings from 7.30 to 9 pm were held each Wednesday and were well attended with ringers from neighbouring Towers regularly attending. Ringing has been successful and the Ringers have added St Clements College Bob Triples to their repertoire of regularly rung methods. In addition the Ringers are adding Cambridge Major to their repertoire in addition. The Ringers have been able to ring all eight bells more regularly this year.

Sunday ringing has been more challenging as our Ringers are fewer in number since Covid lock down restrictions but the Ringers have managed to ring most Sundays. The Ringers had an AGM in 2023 with the usual reports on ringing activity for the year. Existing Officers for the Ringers, Mr Phillip Rose as Tower Captain, Mr Melvyn Rose assisted by Mr Michael Harrison as Steeple Keeper, Mr John Whitham as Treasurer, and Ms Linda Davies as Secretary, consented to and continued to carry out their duties so far as reporting, checking the Tower and the bells and Ringing Chamber and administration of the activities of the Ringers and use of St Marys Church Bells.

Mr. Phillip Rose our Tower Captain at St Mary's, Haddenham, has continued to wind the church clock every week.

On 5th November the Ringers were able to do their annual firing of the bells as is their tradition for Bonfire Night.

There was ringing for Remembrance Day in November, and for Christmas 2023 and to ring in the New Year for 2024.

The Ringers thanked Mr Phillip Rose for continuing to be Tower Captain, winding the clock, and leading ringing for the National events.

Mr Melvyn Rose, assisted by Mr Michael Harrison, have kindly continued to be the Steeple Keeper, and Assistant Steeple Keeper, for the Ringers for the last season of 2023 and into 2024, and they have continued with the bell maintenance.

The bells were inspected by Mr Melvyn Rose and Mr Michael Harrison in April 2023 and the following noted:

- The Treble Bell: had notable warping on the wheel. This had been reported on the previous year's report for the Haddenham bellringers. This was reported to St Marys Church.

St Marys Church obtained permission for a replacement to be fitted. The Bell Wheel was removed and taken to Whites of Appleton to use as a pattern for a new bell wheel to be made. That new bell wheel for the Treble has now been fitted and is working properly, having first had Whites of Appleby come out subsequent to fitting the new wheel, to make some adjustments.

- At the request of the Parish Administration the Church asked Whites of Appleby to make an inspection and full maintenance check on all the bells. Whites completed this and also did some minor remedial works required at the same time. Whites also made some recommendations for future actions for the bell maintenance which were:
- The stay on the Third Bell be replaced with an ash timber item; the existing stay is thought to be oak.
- Grease nipples are required for the Third and Fifth bell clappers.
- Additional bolts should be fitted to the bell stays where appropriate.
- Realign the pulley box on the Seventh bell to cure rope to bell wheel misalignment.

The Ringers thanked Mr Melvyn Rose for all his work in maintaining and monitoring the bells during the year, assisted by Mr Michael Harrison.

Mr John Whitham, Treasurer reported the following for the Ringers: There was an acceptable balance of funds in the Bell Fund currently, which is mostly held in cash and has not on average varied greatly between 2020 and the end of 2023. It remains solvent due to voluntary contributions from the Ringers and visiting ringing bands. There were, however, a number of expenses to be paid from the Fund in 2024.

The new Treble bell wheel was purchased at no cost to St Marys Church, at £1,497, which falls to be accounted for in the 2022/2023 year.

13.Churches Together in Haddenham (CTiH)

There is a covenant between the four churches in Haddenham to work together as a united Christian witness in the village. Events and services are held during the year which are organised by the committee which is made up of representatives from each of the churches. Mrs Marjorie Johnston from the Baptist Church is the current Chairperson.

'Open the Book': Every week a team of volunteers from each of the four churches have the privilege of visiting all the village schools to share this exciting Bible story-telling project with the children. It is fun, interactive and memorable.

Ascension Day Service and Celebration – Thursday 18 May: This was again not well attended and following discussions it has been agreed that this event will be discontinued.

Provision of Refreshments at the Village Fete – Saturday 10 June: Mrs Mary Miller from the Catholic Church once again organised and led a large team of helpers from all the churches to make cakes and serve refreshments from 12.30 – 17.00. This was a good united outreach and service to the village raising nearly £500 for the fete committee to use for village causes.

Lighthouse – August 21 – 25: This was a great event held in the grounds of the Junior School and it was a huge privilege for us all to work together. It built up relationships within the village churches and was a positive influence in the community. All the primary age children had a really good time led by a large team of volunteers from all the churches. The event will be repeated from 19 – 23 August 2024 and the theme will be 'Beside the Seaside'.

Feast Service – Sunday 24 September at 4.00 pm Church End Green: This was led by Rev Jonny Fillis assisted by Rev Cassa Messervy. Numbers were lower than on previous occasions and it is thought it may be losing its appeal, so it was agreed that we need to rethink the event.

Community Fair – Saturday 14 October in the Village Hall: A good number attended and Mrs Loraine Milmer organised the event. Once again, there was a rolling presentation running which included the addition of photographs from 'Lighthouse'. Rev Heegon Moon from the Methodist Church joined the volunteers in manning the stall.

'Warm Spaces': The 'Warm Spaces' last year was not as well attended as had been anticipated and so did not continue this year. There had been thoughts of organising a Day Club for one day a week as an alternative but when Mrs Marjorie Johnston and Mrs Loraine Milmer looked into it they found an excellent organisation in Thame called Thame Senior Friendship Society. They found this was running short of capacity and the organisers were willing to take people from Haddenham. It might be possible to look into something similar for Haddenham in the future and there are also thoughts about establishing a Community Garden.

Service of Personal Remembrance – Sunday 5 November at 3.00 pm: This service took place in the Baptist Church and was sensitively led by Rev Jonny Fillis and Rev Cassa Messervy; it was attended by 30-40 people.

Remembrance Day Service – Sunday 12 November at 10.15 am at St Mary's: This was a lovely service led by Rev Jonny Fillis of The Baptist Church. It was well attended by about 250 adults and 80 children.

Delivery of Welcome Bags: Every new home in the village has had a bag delivered and there has been some very positive feedback. The bags contain a tea light in a glass holder with the inscription 'Bless this House', a Welcome leaflet with local information and a flyer showing seasonal services in all four churches and are always very well received;

Christmas Crib Scene: This was displayed in the window at the Library, with accompanying information about the Christmas services across the village;

CTiH Village Carol Service – Friday 8 December in the Village Hall at 6.30 pm: Led by Rev Cassa Messervy and the Anglican Church with children from the Junior School performing Christmas songs and the Mummers also performed. It was well supported. Mince pies and drinks were served afterwards.

Carol Singing – Saturday 16 December in Haddenham Garden Centre 10.30 – 12 noon: This went well and was attended by an eclectic mix of people, with those visiting the Garden Centre joining in with the singing. Mr David Francis from the Baptist Church led on his keyboard. £70 was collected for Christian Aid. The Garden Centre had kindly prepared an area for us to use.

Service for Renewal of the CTiH Covenant – Saturday 20 January 2024: This was held in the Methodist Church and organised by Mrs Mary Miller of the Catholic Church. About 30 people attended and there was a lovely atmosphere. Mrs Ann Wallace and Mrs Mary Miller organised the breakfast afterwards.

World Day of Prayer – 7.00 pm Friday 1 March at The Church of the Good Shepherd: The service was compiled by the Christian women of Palestine about 2 years ago and was very poignant given the current situation. It was led by Mrs Mary Miller assisted by other members of the Catholic Church. It was very well attended by all the churches with representatives from each of the village churches taking an active part.

‘Big Question Tea’: This is a new initiative; a home group for children suggested by Tom and Vanessa, who have a young family. Young families from the Baptist and Methodist churches have also joined in with this and Mrs Mary Miller will be passing on information to young families at the Catholic church. The format is a Bible story or video followed by a song and craft activity.

Good Friday Procession and Service – 29 March 2024: A good number of people followed the cross, leaving Towns End Green at 10.15 am and at intervals the procession stopped for a Bible reading and singing. This was followed by a service in St Mary’s at 11.00 The service was led by Rev Clare Joyce and was well attended. A choir led by Mr David Quinn gave a lovely performance. Hot cross buns and tea/coffee prepared by Mrs Loraine Milmer and Mrs Janet Morgan were served afterwards.

Lighthouse Easter pop-up event:

This was a taster event for primary age children and took place in the Village Hall on Easter Saturday; emails were sent out to all who attended Lighthouse last year. There was a main stage and crafts etc. Breakfast baps were served

Easter Sunrise Service – 6.30 am 31 March 2024 in the Baptist burial ground – this was a lovely service led by Mrs Mary Miller and attended by 40 - 50 people, followed by a delicious breakfast kindly cooked and served in the Baptist Schoolroom by Mrs Katherine Robson and her friend Emma.

Jackie Harland

14. Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod met three times in this last year and was regularly updated on financial matters and also the deanery vacancy situation.

At the June meeting in All Saints church, Brill, we heard from James Wood, Discipleship Enabler for Buckinghamshire and Schools' Mission Advisor. James has responsibility for supporting the churches in the Buckingham Deanery with youth, children's and family ministry. He also provides specialist advice and support across the Diocese in relation to church engagement with schools and has experience of pioneering several youth work projects. His vision for the diocese is putting children at the centre of our life. Grants are available from the Diocese of Oxford Development Fund and there is also SMMI (Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment) funding. Consultations are going on at the moment.

The meeting in November was held at Holy Trinity, Aylesbury and our guest speaker was Alison Riggs, Environment Action Delivery Coordinator for the Oxford Diocese. She gave a presentation of Energy Audits and spoke about the Diocese's net zero target by 2030. She recommended parishes consider going for the ECO church awards, which integrate consideration for the environment into church life. Resources and guidance documents are available on EcoHub: Green Shoots Network is part of ECO church.

Revd Jennny Edmans, Assistant Priest in the Bernwode Benefice, reported that the Rest-a-While marquee at the Bucks County Show was very well attended with 900 hot drinks and 100 cakes being served. She gave thanks to everyone who had supported this event.

In March this year, at St Mary's Princes Risborough, we heard from Daniel Mbegbe from Compassion UK. Founded in 1952, Compassion is an international children's charity working in 29 countries and partnering with 8,500 local churches within communities experiencing poverty. Their heart is to give children and young people the opportunity to thrive and reach their God-given potential both now and into the future.

Chris Nurse

Financial Review

Total income in the year was £163,573 (2022: £152,492) comprising unrestricted income of £129,755 (2022: £114,597), designated fund income of £17,300 (2022: £20,202) and restricted fund income of £16,518 (2022: £17,696) of which £4,552 was from The Friends of St. Mary's (F.O.S.M.).

The PCC received no goods or services (other than the time of volunteers) free of charge or at a discounted rate.

Total expenditure in the year was £138,331 (2022: £128,479) comprising unrestricted expenditure of £114,918 (2022: £104,834), designated expenditure of £7,391 (2022: £18,306) and restricted fund expenditure of £16,412 (2022: £5,339).

There was net income for the year £25,242 (2022: £24,016). Donations, including those from regular monthly donors improved in part as a result of normalisation post Covid19.

The cash balance on the unrestricted fund as at 31st December 2023 was £173,343.

Reserves

The PCC's policy is to maintain reserves at a minimum of three month's operating expenses as well as holding good cash reserves to cover any unforeseen repairs that inevitably arise with the ownership of old properties.

The PCC is aware that it is holding funds in excess of the reserves policy amount and is formulating plans to use those funds for the public benefit. The PCC aims to enhance the spiritual life of the Parish of Haddenham as well as offering support to those in the Parish who are suffering hardship. The PCC also has a duty to maintain St Mary's Church, a very old Grade 1 listed building, as well as two other old buildings namely St Mary's Centre and Old School House.

Structure, Governance and Management

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure 1956. Appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules 2006. The charity is administered by its trustees, the PCC members.

Administrative Information

St Mary's Church meets at St Mary's Church, Church End, Haddenham Buckinghamshire HP17 8AJ. The Church is the lead Church in the Wychert Vale Benefice and forms part of the team ministry in the Diocese of Oxford. As at 31st December 2023 there were 124 Parishioners on the electoral roll (2022 107)

The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission registered number 1132319.

The address for correspondence for St Mary's Church is:-

St Mary's Church,

St Mary's Centre

Church End

Haddenham

Buckinghamshire

HP17 8AJ

The PCC gratefully acknowledges that the operation of the Church is heavily dependent on the commitment of the volunteers within the congregation in order to fulfil al its activities.

Other Relevant Organisations

Banks:

C.A.F Bank Ltd, west Malling Kent ME19 4JQ

Charity Bank, Tonbridge TN9 1BE

Skipton Building Society Taunton TA1 3LG

Lloyds Bank, Thame (Covenant Account)

Barclays Bank (F.O.S.M)

Independent Examiners: Miller & Co, 5 Imperial Court, Laporte Way, Luton LU4 8FE.

PCC members who have served during the year 2023 :-

Ex officio:

Rev Cassandra Messervy Rector (Chair)

Rev Philip Neil Groves Vicar

Rev Jonathan Desmond Hawkins Vicar

Deanery Synod representative:

Christopher Nurse FRSA

Adrian Collier (ex officio) deceased 2023

Elected members:

Timothy Eric Shaw appointed 18.5.2023

Dr Thomas William Elston appointed 18.5.2023

Vanessa Elston appointed 18.5.2023

Peter Goves

Julie Fell

Howard Charles Roberts

Gordon Douglas McCallum Lawson

Paul Smith

Valerie Walker Churchwarden

Trish Mander

Loraine Anne Milmer

Christine Pamela Headlong Churchwarden

Dianne Brackley BSC

David Morris (ex officio treasurer) retired 18.5.2023

Tim Childs retired 18.5.2023

Graham Stoney retired 18.5.2023

Angela Matthews retired 18.5.2023

Ros Haworth retired 18.5.2023

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish

of St. Mary's Haddenham

Annual report for the year ended 31st December 2023

Elections to the PCC follows the Church representation rules published by the Church of England and a conscious effort is made to ensure it is both balanced and inclusive of the larger congregation.

This report was approved by the PCC on 23 April 2024 and signed on its behalf:-

N Walker

Rector

H Walker

Lead Treasurer

Churchwarden
+ Trustee

VALERIE WALKER

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary's
Haddenham**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total 2023	Total 2022
INCOME						
Voluntary income	2	96,402	-	15,088	111,490	108,060
Income from charitable activities	3	13,008	17,300	1,430	31,738	25,117
Income from investments		2,959	-	-	2,959	340
Income from church activities	4	34,964	-	-	34,964	42,627
Total Income		147,333	17,300	16,518	181,151	176,144
EXPENDITURE						
Church activities	6	132,106	8,688	16,412	157,206	152,128
Total Expenditure		132,106	8,688	16,412	157,206	152,128
Net income / (expenditure)		15,227	8,612	106	23,945	24,016
Transfer between funds	14	(7,110)	12,202	(5,092)		
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		8,117	20,814	(4,986)	23,945	24,016
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds brought forward	14	193,177	30,278	52,744	276,199	252,183
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		201,294	51,092	47,758	300,144	276,199

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Any small differences are due to rounding.

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary's Haddenham
Haddenham**

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023			2022
		General	Designated	Restricted	Total
					£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets		107,966	-	-	107,966
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	12	23,002	-	1,984	24,986
Cash at bank and In hand	11	79,035	53,907	54,059	187,001
		102,037	53,907	56,043	211,987
LIABILITIES					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	8,709	2,815	8,285	19,809
NET CURRENT ASSETS		93,328	51,092	47,758	192,178
NET ASSETS		201,294	51,092	47,758	300,144
CHARITY FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds	14	201,294	-	-	201,294
Designated funds	14	-	51,092	-	51,092
Restricted funds	14	-	-	47,758	47,758
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		201,294	51,092	47,758	300,144

The financial statements were approved by the PCC on 23 April 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

N Walker

The Revd. Cassa Messervy - Rector

*Church warden
a Trustee*

VALERIE WALKER

H Roberts

H Roberts - Treasurer

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary's
Haddenham**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

1.1 General information and basis of preparation

The PCC is a body corporate and a charity registered with the Charities Commission. The address of the registered office is given in the administrative details section of the trustees annual report.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities - the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice and comply with the PCC's governing document and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The financial statements are presented in pounds sterling and rounded to the nearest pound.

The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Hardship Fund.

The Hardship Fund is a confidential account under the control of the Rector and Church Wardens. Its income derives from collections at baptisms, weddings and funerals and occasional donations. As at the year end any monies in the embedded fund had been transferred to the separate account. Due to the closure of the building society account in which these funds were held, the monies are currently held as an embedded fund. It is hoped to hold them separately again in the future.

Thursday Morning Collections.

The St Mary's Thursday Morning communion services are held in the Catholic Church. Cash collections go into our General Fund which helps support our quarterly donation of £50 to the Catholic Church.

1.2 Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary's
Haddenham**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies (continued)

1.3 Income

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received. Voluntary income is recognised only when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under covenant or gift aid is recognised only when received and income tax recoverable on donations is recognised when the related donation is recognised. Grants and legacies are accounted for at the point the resources pass under the control of the PCC. Rental income from the letting of premises is recognised when the rental is due. Interest on bank accounts is recognised when receivable. All other income is recognised on an accrual basis.

1.4 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All grants and donations made by the church are approved by the PCC or made within guidelines laid down by the PCC. "Tithe" payments of up to 10% are allocated out of donated income. This amount is accrued for in the period in which the income is brought into account. The parish share of Diocesan central costs is accounted for when payable.

1.5 Fixed assets

Consecrated land and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by the Charities Act 2011. No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment.

Expenditure on 'other fixtures, fittings and office equipment' is written off when the assets are acquired.

Freehold property.

Freehold property represents St. Mary's Centre and The Old School House and is carried in the balance sheet at cost as it is a mixed-use asset. A formal valuation has not been made, however, the market value is considered to be not less than cost. Depreciation is charged at 2% on cost less estimated residual value of each asset on a systematic basis over their expected useful lives. As the estimated residual values are not less than cost, no depreciation is provided for.

1.6 Financial Instruments

The PCC only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments.

1.7 Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary's
Haddenham**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	2023			2022
	General	Designated	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£
2 Voluntary Income				
Planned Giving	55,161	-	-	55,161
Income Tax Recoverable	17,842	-	1,650	19,492
Other Collections/Giving	23,399	-	927	24,326
Grants	-	-	2,725	2,725
Donations	-	-	9,786	9,786
	96,402	-	15,088	111,490
				108,060

Voluntary income in 2022 was £108,060 of which £16,201 was attributable to restricted funds, £5,002 attributable to designated funds and £86,857 was attributable to unrestricted funds.

3 Income from charitable activities

Rent from letting of Old School House	-	17,300	-	17,300	15,200
Subscriptions - Friends of St Mary's	-	-	1,430	1,430	1,495
Other, Incl admin costs repayable by other Parishes/Diocese	13,008	-	-	13,008	8,422
	13,008	17,300	1,430	31,738	25,117

Income from activities for generating funds in 2022 was £25,117 of which £1,495 was attributable to restricted funds, £15,200 attributable to designated funds and £8,422 was attributable to unrestricted funds.

4 Income from church activities

Fees for weddings and funerals	23,365	-	-	23,365	29,807
Income from church hire	760	-	-	760	1,070
Income from St Mary's Centre hire	10,839	-	-	10,839	11,750
	34,964	-	-	34,964	42,627

Income from church activities in 2022 was £42,627 which was all attributable to unrestricted funds.

5 Non-church income

As per the Church of England Guide to Accounting and Reporting, non-church monies are excluded from the accounts. During the year £3,021 was collected on behalf of other organisations and reimbursed to them.

	2023				2022
	General	Designated	Restricted	Total	
	£	£	£	£	£
6 Expenditure on church activities					
Mission giving and donations:					
Charitable donations	200	-	6,427	6,627	2,348
Tithe payments	-	-	-	-	10,639
Diocesan parish share	56,322	-	-	56,322	55,465
Clergy and staffing costs:					
Staff costs	17,144	-	-	17,144	13,185
Clergy expenses	7,549	-	-	7,549	5,238
Church expenses:					
Church running expenses	6,041	-	-	6,041	7,354
Upkeep of services	2,350	278	118	2,746	308
Churchyard maintenance	3,817	-	-	3,817	3,338
Insurance	4,760	-	-	4,760	4,230
Outreach	1,337	-	-	1,337	174
Pastoral expenses	570	-	-	570	972
Training courses	1,600	-	-	1,600	342
Other professional services	150	-	-	150	-
Other office/general administrative expenses	2,491	-	315	2,806	1,478
Children and youth work	-	-	3,634	3,634	1,204
Church repairs and maintenance:					
Church building	-	958	4,222	5,180	1,655
Boiler	-	-	601	601	-
Audio visual equipment	-	-	1,095	1,095	-
Old School House expenses, repairs and maintenance	-	715	-	715	2,453
St Mary's Centre expenses, repairs and maintenance	8,697	6,737	-	15,434	17,596
Wedding and funeral expenses including Diocesan fees	17,578	-	-	17,578	23,649
Governance - independent examiner's remuneration	1,500	-	-	1,500	500
	132,106	8,688	16,412	157,206	152,128

Expenditure on church activities in 2022 was £152,128 of which £5,339 was attributable to restricted funds, £18,306 attributable to designated funds and £104,834 was attributable to unrestricted funds.

7 Trustees' and key management personnel remuneration and expenses

The trustees neither received nor waived any remuneration during the year (2022: same). The trustees did not have any expenses reimbursed during the year except that sometimes trustees act as agents for the PCC and make approved purchases on its behalf and are reimbursed for this expenditure. On no occasion has that reimbursement been personal to the Trustee concerned (2022: same).

Ordained members of the clergy receive their stipends directly from the Church of England. All out of pocket expenses paid to our clergy are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities Report.

8 Independent examiner's remuneration

	2023	2022
	£	£
Independent Examiner's fee	750	500
Other financial services	750	-
	1,500	500

9 Staff Costs	2023	2022
	£	£
Gross Salaries	16,867	12,928
Employer's National Insurance		-
Employer's Pension Contributions	277	257
Total	<u>17,144</u>	<u>13,185</u>
Average number of Employees	0.74	0.74
No employees received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000.		
10 Tangible fixed assets	2023	2022
	£	£
Land and buildings		
Cost at 1 January 2023	107,966	107,966
Cost at 31 December 2023	<u>107,966</u>	<u>107,966</u>
11 Cash at Bank and In Hand	2023	2022
	£	£
CAF Current Account	33,214	79,717
CAF Business cards	1,027	-
Charity Bank	51,627	30,873
Covenant Account (Lloyds)	5,321	14,108
Skipton Building Society	82,081	-
Melton Mowbray Building Society	-	30,023
Petty Cash	73	50
Friends of St Mary's (Bardays) (also see Note 17)	13,658	10,636
	<u>187,001</u>	<u>165,406</u>
12 Debtors	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade Debtors	11,603	8,852
HMRC (Gift Aid)	7,815	6,033
HMRC (Gift Aid Restricted)	1,323	1,004
FOSM	606	374
Resources Fund	-	2,772
Other Debtors	3,639	2,653
	<u>24,986</u>	<u>21,689</u>
13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade Creditors	3,970	269
Accruals	4,653	4,649
Other Creditors	9,683	9,387
Payroll Clearing	(112)	170
Resources Fund	-	2,772
Tenancy Deposit	1,615	1,615
	<u>19,809</u>	<u>18,862</u>

14 Fund reconciliation

	Balance at 31/12/2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31/12/2023 £
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	193,177	129,755	(114,528)	(7,110)	201,294
	193,177	129,755	(114,528)	(7,110)	201,294
Designated funds					
Parish Weekend	135	-	-	(135)	-
Social Events Fund	897	-	-	(897)	-
Church Furnishings Fund (Altar Frontal Repairs)	3,508	-	-	(3,008)	500
Music Fund (Rushton Bequest)	278	-	(278)	-	-
Mission Fund	278	-	-	(278)	-
Tithe Unspent	2,953	-	-	9,671	12,624
Old School House Refurb Fund	-	-	(715)	715	-
General Resources Designated Fund	22,229	17,300	(7,695)	6,134	37,968
	30,278	17,300	(8,688)	12,202	51,092
Restricted funds					
Children and Young People (CYP)	19,768	3,120	(3,634)	-	19,254
Easter Lilies Fund	26	114	(60)	(80)	-
Hardship Fund	1,711	-	-	-	1,711
Christmas Tree Festival	2,174	3,340	(4,969)	-	545
Christmas Collections	845	765	(1,457)	-	153
Hymn Book Fund	58	-	(58)	-	-
Bruce Clark Aperitif Recital Organ Fund	3,160	-	-	-	3,160
Welcome Packs Deanery Grant	167	-	-	-	167
Church Enhancement (Prev. Millennium) Fund	4,646	-	-	(69)	4,577
Masquerade Ball Fund	1,171	-	-	(1,171)	-
Weekend Away Fund	3,925	-	-	-	3,925
Leaving Collections	-	315	(315)	-	-
FOSM	9,714	4,552	-	-	14,266
Boiler Fund	1,159	90	(601)	(648)	-
SMC Heating Appeal	710	-	-	(710)	-
Old School House Refurb Fund	3,131	-	-	(3,131)	-
Church Maintenance Grants	-	4,222	(4,222)	-	-
Audio Visual Fund	379	-	(1,096)	717	-
	52,744	16,518	(16,412)	(5,092)	47,758
	276,199	163,573	(139,628)	-	300,144

During this financial period the PCC approved the transfer of a number of funds to General Fund and also the amalgamation of some funds that had duplicate purposes. You can see these fund movements under the column marked transfers.

To improve definitions between restricted and/or designated funds, certain monies (historically called restricted in error) were reallocated to designated and therefore optically appears as a debit, this is a one-off.

Fund descriptions

Unrestricted funds

All transactions relating to the general ecclesiastical and charitable activities of St. Mary's Haddenham, are contained in this fund.

Designated funds

Church Furnishings Fund (Altar Frontal Repairs)

This fund contains a specific donation of £500 for Altar Frontal Repairs with the balance after PCC approval being transferred to the General Fund.

Tithe Unspent

Each year 10% of Church income is set aside for donations to charities both at home and abroad. The balance shown is awaiting decisions from PCC on suitable destinations for those funds.

14 Fund reconciliation (continued)

General Resources Designated Fund

This fund is maintained at a reasonable level to cover maintenance and repair costs for the Church, Old School House and St Mary's Centre. All our buildings are rather old and it is PCC decision to hold these funds to cover unforeseen costs so often associated with older buildings.

Restricted funds

Children and Young People (CYP)

This balance is made up of specific donations where the donors have stressed that the monies are to be used for activities suitable for children and young people.

Hardship Fund

This fund has been set aside specifically to help those people in our Parish who need some temporary financial assistance. The fund is administered by the Rector.

Christmas Tree Festival and Christmas collections

Both these fund balances represent HMRC Gift Aid payments which have now been paid out to the charities nominated by PCC.

Bruce Clark Aperitif Recital Organ Fund

These funds were raised for the maintenance of the Church organ and are in memory of the late Bruce Clark, an organist who organised recitals in Church for several years.

Welcome Packs Deanery Grant

A self explanatory fund which pays for each family, moving into our parish, to have a pack of useful local information about our Church and other Village activities.

Church Enhancement (Prev. Millennium) Fund

This fund is the balance of substantial donations received in 2000 for Church fabric enhancement.

F.O.S.M.

Friends of St Mary's fund which raises money at various events that is used solely for the upkeep of the Church building.

	Balance at 31/12/2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31/12/2022 £
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	182,116	115,895	(104,834)	-	193,177
	182,116	115,895	(104,834)	-	193,177
Designated funds					
Parish Weekend	135	-	-	-	135
Holiday at home	279	-	(279)	-	-
Social Events Fund	897	-	-	-	897
Ordinand fund	112	-	(112)	-	-
Church Furnishings Fund (Altar Frontal Repairs)	3,508	-	-	-	3,508
Music Fund (Rushton Bequest)	278	-	-	-	278
Mission Fund	-	278	-	-	278
Tithe Unspent	1,824	2,953	(1,824)	-	2,953
General Resources Designated Fund	21,350	15,673	(16,091)	1,297	22,229
	28,383	18,904	(18,306)	1,297	30,278
Restricted funds					
Children and Young People (CYP)	17,644	3,328	(1,204)	-	19,768
Easter Lilies Fund	5	21	-	-	26
Hardship Fund	55	2,271	(615)	-	1,711
Christmas Tree Festival	1,562	1,954	(1,342)	-	2,174
Christmas Collections	-	845	-	-	845
Hymn Book Fund	-	366	(308)	-	58
Bruce Clark Aperitif Recital Organ Fund	-	3,160	-	-	3,160
Welcome Packs Deanery Grant	445	-	(278)	-	167
Church Enhancement (Prev. Millennium) Fund	4,646	-	-	-	4,646
Masquerade Ball Fund	2,421	-	(1,250)	-	1,171
Weekend Away Fund	3,925	-	-	-	3,925
FOSM	7,241	3,770	-	(1,297)	9,714
Boiler Fund	979	180	-	-	1,159
SMC Heating Appeal	710	-	-	-	710
Old School House Refurb Fund	1,331	1,800	-	-	3,131
Audio Visual Fund	721	-	(342)	-	379
	41,685	17,695	(5,839)	(1,297)	52,744
	252,184	152,494	(128,479)	-	276,199

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Fixed assets	107,966	-	-	107,966
Current assets	102,037	53,907	56,043	211,987
Current liabilities	(8,709)	(2,815)	(8,285)	(19,809)
	<u>201,294</u>	<u>51,092</u>	<u>47,758</u>	<u>300,144</u>

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Fixed assets	107,966	-	-	107,966
Current assets	99,408	34,665	53,022	187,095
Current liabilities	(14,197)	(4,387)	(278)	(18,862)
	<u>193,177</u>	<u>30,278</u>	<u>52,744</u>	<u>276,199</u>

16 Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions during the period (2022: same).

17 Friends of St Mary's Fund

	2023 £	2022 £
Income		
Subscriptions	1,430	1,495
Donations	2,795	1,570
Income Tax Recoverable	<u>327</u>	<u>705</u>
	<u>4,552</u>	<u>3,770</u>
Expenditure		
Donation to Resources		<u>1,297</u>
Net Income	<u>4,552</u>	<u>2,473</u>
Fund Balance B/fwd	<u>9,714</u>	<u>7,241</u>
Balance C/fwd	<u><u>14,266</u></u>	<u><u>9,714</u></u>
Balance Sheet	2023	2022
Current Assets		
Bank	13,660	10,637
Debtors	<u>606</u>	<u>374</u>
	<u>14,266</u>	<u>11,011</u>
Less Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
Creditors and Accruals		<u>1,297</u>
Fund Balance	<u><u>14,266</u></u>	<u><u>9,714</u></u>

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish
of St. Mary's Haddenham

**Independent examiners report to the trustees of The Parochial Church Council of the
Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary's Haddenham**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 1 to 10.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared the accounts (financial statements) in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has since been withdrawn.

We understand that this has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mr R A Cox FCA
Miller & Co, Chartered Accountants
5 Imperial Court, Laporte Way
Luton, LU4 8FE

23 April 2024

14. Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod met three times in this last year and was regularly updated on financial matters and also the deanery vacancy situation.

At the June meeting in All Saints church, Brill, we heard from James Wood, Discipleship Enabler for Buckinghamshire and Schools' Mission Advisor. James has responsibility for supporting the churches in the Buckingham Deanery with youth, children's and family ministry. He also provides specialist advice and support across the Diocese in relation to church engagement with schools and has experience of pioneering several youth work projects. His vision for the diocese is putting children at the centre of our life. Grants are available from the Diocese of Oxford Development Fund and there is also SMMI (Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment) funding. Consultations are going on at the moment.

The meeting in November was held at Holy Trinity, Aylesbury and our guest speaker was Alison Riggs, Environment Action Delivery Coordinator for the Oxford Diocese. She gave a presentation of Energy Audits and spoke about the Diocese's net zero target by 2030. She recommended parishes consider going for the ECO church awards, which integrate consideration for the environment into church life. Resources and guidance documents are available on EcoHub: Green Shoots Network is part of ECO church.

Rev'd Jennny Edmans, Assistant Priest in the Bernwode Benefice, reported that the Rest-a-While marquee at the Bucks County Show was very well attended with 900 hot drinks and 100 cakes being served. She gave thanks to everyone who had supported this event.

In March this year, at St Mary's Princes Risborough, we heard from Daniel Mbegbe from Compassion UK. Founded in 1952, Compassion is an international children's charity working in 29 countries and partnering with 8,500 local churches within communities experiencing poverty. Their heart is to give children and young people the opportunity to thrive and reach their God-given potential both now and into the future.

Chris Nurse

Financial Review

Total income in the year was £181,151 (2022: £176,144) comprising unrestricted income of £147,333 (2022: £138,246), designated fund income of £17,300 (2022: £20,202) and restricted fund income of £16,518 (2022: £17,696) of which £4,552 was from The Friends of St. Mary's (F.O.S.M.).

The PCC received no goods or services (other than the time of volunteers) free of charge or at a discounted rate.

Total expenditure in the year was £157,206 (2022: £152,128) comprising unrestricted expenditure of £132,106 (2022: £128,483), designated expenditure of £8,688 (2022: £18,306) and restricted fund expenditure of £16,412 (2022: £5,339).

There was net income for the year £23,945 (2022: £24,016). Donations, including those from regular monthly donors improved in part as a result of normalisation post Covid19.

The cash balance on the unrestricted fund as at 31st December 2023 was £79,035.

Reserves

The PCC's policy is to maintain reserves at a minimum of three month's operating expenses as well as holding good cash reserves to cover any unforeseen repairs that inevitably arise with the ownership of old properties.

The PCC is aware that it is holding funds in excess of the reserves policy amount and is formulating plans to use those funds for the public benefit. The PCC aims to enhance the spiritual life of the Parish of Haddenham as well as offering support to those in the Parish who are suffering hardship. The PCC also has a duty to maintain St Mary's Church, a very old Grade 1 listed building, as well as two other old buildings namely St Mary's Centre and Old School House.

Structure, Governance and Management

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure 1956. Appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules 2006. The charity is administered by its trustees, the PCC members.



The Parochial Church Council of
The Ecclesiastical Parish
of
St Mary's, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire

Report and Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st December 2023

Registered Charity Number 1132319

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish
of St. Mary's Haddenham

Annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2023

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The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish

of St. Mary's Haddenham

Annual report for the year ended 31st December 2023

The Trustees present their report and the independently examined financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published in October 2019.

Public Benefit Statement

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St. Mary the Virgin and St. Mary's Centre.

Aims and Purposes

St. Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Cassa Messervy, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St. Mary's Centre and the Old School House, Station Road, Haddenham.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St. Mary's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music, and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
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Achievements and Performance

1. Electoral Roll

This year there was the usual revision of the electoral roll. The number on the roll is now 129 as of May 2024. It was 127 as of May 2023. Anyone who wishes to join the electoral roll can complete a form and go on the roll from the day after the APCM. The Acting Electoral Roll Officer is Jan Lemos.

2. Trustees' Report

As our congregations continue to grow we welcome many new faces at our services. We are pleased to see the church used as a venue for events involving the whole community for concerts, as a part of the village fete and, of course, the annual Community Christmas Tree festival, which again ran alongside the Winterfest Beer Festival bringing in many visitors from outside the village as well as local residents, many of whom have never been inside the church before.

With Churches Together in Haddenham (CTiH) we supported the Warm Spaces initiative which ran between November and February offering a friendly warm place to go for company and a soup lunch. We also had a presence at the Community Fair in the Village Hall and at Woodlands at a fair organised for all the Fairhive residents in the area. However, the highlight of the year must be the first ever Lighthouse Haddenham holiday club for a week in August with over 150 children taking part supported by 90 volunteers. Our thanks must go to all who planned this over many months and all those who made it possible with the many roles involved.

Our long-standing treasurer, David Morris, stood down at the APCM. We are very grateful for his many years of service supporting our church in so many ways. We now have a finance team consisting of a bookkeeper and 3 co-treasurers who meet regularly not only to keep our finances on track but are encouraging us to do more forward thinking and budgeting for bigger projects such as the replacement of outdated AV equipment in church and making St. Mary's Centre garden a useable outdoor space. We were also sad to see Chloe Wilcock leave the office in the autumn for an exciting new adventure and we wish her well but were pleased to appoint one of our church family, Jan Lemos, as our new Benefice Administrator.

A small group, led by Cassa, have joined Lead Academy which is a learning community to share best practice and experiences. We meet with a small group of other churches four times over two years together with coaches and mentors, among other things to re-evaluate our purpose, values and organisational structures. Our thoughts and conclusions are shared with the whole church family and form the basis of our future ministry in Haddenham.

3. Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is sharing God's love and showing people through our presence, time and resources that we care for them and that someone is thinking of them. Much of our pastoral care is being done by individuals in our church family caring for other church members, neighbours and in their leisure and work places. This is supported by visits from clergy members, home communion visits, visiting those who are sick or in hospital and supporting bereaved families. Our pastoral care team meets every few months to check if anyone is falling through the gap, to discuss any concerns and to identify any new needs. Small changes can be significant to keep people included, such as lifts to church and providing a hard copy of the emailed weekly newssheet for those who do not use computers.

We are pleased to see many new faces at our services, and it has been important that we are seen as a welcoming church and help newer members to feel part of the church family. We encourage volunteering as a way of becoming involved and there are many opportunities from Sunday coffee and occasional hospitality to A/V to IT to cleaning the brass ... the list is endless! We could not function without the invaluable help going on

behind the scenes and more offers are always welcome. There is a place for everyone! We continue to reach out to our wider community through visits with Welcome bags to the occupants of new homes, taking communion to our local residential homes and groups such as Pitter Patter and Monday Club. However, we have identified loneliness as an issue and eating together such as the Harvest lunch is much appreciated. We are considering doing more occasional meals to bring people together.

New home groups have started up including a daytime one and, to lessen the burden of leadership, they are being encouraged to work co-operatively and share leading and hosting where possible. Home groups are free to study whatever is appropriate for them but study materials are made available when requested and support is always available to them as needed. We now have a special monthly one for children and young families – the Big Question Tea – to explore those probing questions children ask.

Chris Headlong

4. Safeguarding

Parish Safeguarding Officer – Val Walker

Parish Safeguarding Officer with responsibility for Vulnerable Adults – Chris Headlong.

The PCC has adopted “Promoting a Safer Church”, the safeguarding policy statement of the Church of England, as its own safeguarding policy. Safeguarding is a standard agenda item at every PCC meeting.

The Parish Safeguarding Dashboard is being used to ensure that all actions and policies are up to date via the Safeguarding Action Plan which is reviewed regularly by the PCC. In addition, Val attended training for and registered with the new Safeguarding Hub which will help us track the safer recruiting process.

The Church of England Safeguarding guidelines require that DBS checks are renewed every 3 years. There is an ongoing process to ensure that all volunteers have the required DBS check at the appropriate level.

Safer recruitment procedures are in place for all volunteers working with children, young people and vulnerable adults. All volunteers are required to complete safeguarding training at the appropriate level and frequency.

All PCC members have current DBS checks and are required to complete online Safeguarding training at Basic Awareness and Foundation level.

Val and Chris have updated their training at Basic Awareness, Foundation and Leadership level. Val has also completed Safer Recruitment and People Management.

The procedure to deal with any safeguarding concern or allegation was reviewed and approved by PCC in November 2023.

All policies and procedures are reviewed regularly.

5. Resources

CHURCH:

General ongoing maintenance performed.

Planned:

- Replace fluorescent emergency exit lights with LEDs.
- Outstanding repair work from 2022 Quinquennial Report.
- Ceiling repairs above creche.

ST MARYS CENTRE:

- Brick wall at rear rebuilt
- General ongoing maintenance performed.
- Roof repairs ongoing.

Planned work:

- Yew tree at front is partly dead and causing damage to brick wall – application to remove tree in process and then to remove flower bed and assess any repairs to wall.
- Replace fence at rear – quotes have been received.
- Garden space plan now that it has been cleared.
- Insulate ceiling of attic room (carried over but not considered urgent).

OLD SCHOOL HOUSE:

General ongoing maintenance performed.

Outstanding work:

- Periodic on-going redecoration during gaps in tenancy
- Replacement of old radiators – future during tenancy gap

6. Children's Church

Children's Church (CC) meet on 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month, in term time only. During the summer term of 2023, we followed the topics in church – the resurrection story.

With the start of the new academic year in September 2023, CC was able to meet on most 2nd and 4th Sundays. Children register on line each year using a google form, which

both Jan and Cassa can edit. During the Christmas term we used material from Messy Church books looking at journeys from the mountains down to the sea.

During the Lent term we used online resources to explore the stories after Christmas – the welcome (Jesus welcomed into the temple), water (baptism), wedding at Cana and The Word. On the 1st and 3rd Sunday Philippa then brought a simple craft item into church for the children to decorate during the sermons using a 'holy doughnut'. Tina Wark was involved with creating the doughnut. This seemed to work well and CC plan to continue this into the summer term 2024, again following the topics used in CC.

The average age of the group of children who regularly attend is about 5 so we have chosen suitable material for this age group.

Cassa has become very involved with CC and has attended the CC meetings. Cassa is keen to intertwine CC with all services as well as involving the children in all services. The other leaders are Loraine Milmer, Anna Kittel and Liz Chivers. In addition, we have had Josh Chivers join us as part of his Bronze DofE volunteering and Marie Hulcoop, who are both under 16 volunteers. Suitable safeguarding and child protection training has been put in place.

Philippa Blowfield continues to administrate and co-ordinate CC. We usually have between 3 and 6 children attending per session, a small increase from last year.

Future Plans

To continue to encourage children to attend CC. Try to increase numbers by offering a more constant presence in church with a simple craft during the sermons. Advertising CC in church at popular services. Engage with the local community especially through Lighthouse.

Philippa Blowfield

7. Young Families

A focus on young families remains a key part of our church family life and can not easily be seen in isolation. There are of course some elements of the ministry where young families may have more of a focus but it is not neat and tidy, it is more like a marble cake than a batten-burg!

Opportunity is created for fun, relationship building, church familiarity and spiritual growth, to name but a few of the elements undertaken.

- Baptism preparation – this continues to be a very important aspect of ministry, meeting people where they are on their spiritual journey and feeding their faith.
- Children's Church – remains steady with increasing links into All age services (see CC report)

- Schools work – a CTIH venture. Such a blessing to have positive links with all the schools allowing regular assemblies to be taken by the Open the Book team.
- St Mary's School service – monthly service held in the church. Children are contributors, with parents, grandparents and carers welcome.
- All age worship services – inclusive with increasing numbers of activities for children.
- Pitter Patter – a drop in playgroup for 0-3yr olds, parents, grandparents and carers welcome. 9.30 – 11.00am. Whilst numbers fluctuate, it is usual for numbers to be around 20 but on occasions this is as many as 30 children. It is such a blessing to meet with the children, but just wonderful to meet the attached adult and chat. The relationship building at this stage goes way beyond the walls of St Mary's Centre.
- Big Questions - (family home-group maybe the best description), aims to meet monthly but varies depending on what is possible for those that attend. Involves food and fun, increasing numbers this year.
- Haddenham Lighthouse – August 2023 saw a huge success for the first Haddenham Lighthouse. This is a CTIH initiative, with volunteers from all the churches in the village and including Christians who live in the village but worship outside of the village. It will run again this August. This can only run because of the huge amount of work undertaken by clergy and volunteers – thank you. Once again, the grounds of the Community Junior school will be used together with a small part of the school building, marquees will be erected and the fun will begin! On the Saturday before Easter Sunday, there was a 'Pop up' Easter Lighthouse held in the Village hall, craft, cake, music and Lighthouse fun. The event was well attended with about 40 children, some of whom had not attended the main Haddenham Lighthouse last year, but might now! The theme for this year is 'Jesus Rocks', we can't argue with that.

Lorraine Milmer

8. Working with Haddenham Schools

My sincere thanks go to the whole fantastic ecumenical Open the Book team – Olive, Andy, Cassa, Jenny, Ann, Jonny, Katharine and Jan, with help from many others. Nigel Featherston will be joining the team in the summer term. In addition, a new member of Haddenham Baptist Church has also expressed an interest in joining us. We work in pairs on a rota basis visiting all three Haddenham schools every week to deliver assemblies including a Bible Story, a song and a time of reflection and prayer.

In July 2023, we ran an interactive workshop in the Junior School for Year 6 students about the challenges and excitement of moving up to secondary school. This prompted some very interesting discussions and gave the children the opportunity to share their feelings. We gave each child a copy of the "It's Your Move" booklet published by Scripture Union. We also hosted the "Celebration of Moving On" in church for the 60 children leaving St Mary's School. Several members of the Open the Book Team presented individually named Bibles to each child as a gift from St Mary's Church.

We have continued our monthly “Family Service” in Church for St Mary’s School children, staff and parents. It’s wonderful to welcome the whole school into church and it’s always a positive and lively atmosphere! Parents are invited to join us for refreshments before the service and we have seen numbers steadily increase. We are hugely grateful to members of the AV team and the volunteers who help with coffee, which is much appreciated by both parents and school staff.

In December we led Christmas services for all three schools: a Christingle service for the Infants School in Haddenham Baptist Church; a Nativity service for St Mary’s School in St Mary’s Church and Lessons and Carols services for the Junior School in St Mary’s Church. In addition, we also ran a “Christmas Carousel” activity morning in St Mary’s School. The Spring Term ended with a full week of Easter activities including an “Easter Carousel” activity morning in St Mary’s School, an Easter service for Haddenham Infants school in Haddenham Baptist Church and a whole school Easter assembly in the Junior School. All our Christmas and Easter services are fully interactive, involving dozens of children dressing up and helping to act out the relevant story.

We have a growing collection of costumes and props, which we are grateful to store in Haddenham Methodist Church.

What a privilege it is for us to have the opportunity to share God’s word with over 630 children and their teachers in Haddenham’s three schools! It brings us joy when children say hello to us around the village, often using our names, telling their parents “That lady (man) comes into my school or “That’s the lady (man) from church!” We are very much looking forward to another year of telling more Bible stories during weekly assemblies and monthly school services.

Francesca Flaxton

9. Monday Club

We continue to meet twice monthly on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at St. Mary’s Centre unless either falls on a Bank Holiday. This ties in with the Sixty Plus Club’s monthly meeting day on 3rd Wednesdays. We also promote the Baptist Church’s monthly Vintage Church.

We currently have 27 members but our numbers are slowly declining with more in poor health both physically and mentally which brings its own challenges. Most weeks there are 18-20 people attending and as the majority of members are aged 80+ with a significant number over 90 with our oldest and approaching her 97th birthday this is an achievement! Transport is therefore more of an issue as several members who used to arrive independently either walking or driving now need a lift and it is not unusual to have to get lifts for up to 10 people. We are very grateful for the wonderful support we get from our church family with lifts as well as other regular volunteers without which we could not function.

Our programme continues in the same vein with visiting speakers, games afternoons, and tea and chat socials. We were thrilled to have the unique opportunity of hearing about the King's coronation first hand from the husband of one of our regular volunteers who was invited to the ceremony in Westminster Abbey! He brought his official invitation and other memorabilia to share with us. 26 of us enjoyed a meal together at Haddenham Garden Centre in June and were pleased that Cassa and Clare could join us. Sharing meals together is very important when living alone and we do this as often as we can. Cassa has become well recognised as she drops in to chat with members whenever she can and as many of them are not church goers it is encouraging to be able to reach our older community in this way. We always ask her or Clare to do something special for us to share the Christian message of Easter and Christmas.

Ann and Chris will always be grateful for offers of help and give a huge thank you to those who are already supporting the Club.

Ann Warris and Chris Headlong

10. Start the Week

We continue to meet on the first and third Mondays of the month in church, beginning with coffee followed by an hour or so's study session, a time for prayer and often a hymn. It is very much a 'drop-in' group but we usually have around 15-18 ladies each time, many of whom attend St Mary's but we also have regular members who attend other churches in the village and beyond.

In this past year we have been looking at women in the Bible, Psalms and the book Embracing Justice. The group is usually led by a different person each time, each bringing their own individual style and ideas, and it has been good to see a few more people willing to lead. We have had some interesting discussions and opportunities to discuss living our lives as Christians in today's society.

A couple of times a year we have a social get-together, meeting up for coffee, and it's lovely to see new friendships being formed.

"What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me – practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you." Philippians 4:9

Jan Lemos

11. Music

For many years we have been blessed with a wonderful group of talented musicians at St Mary's and this year is no exception, welcoming new musicians to join us, enhancing and leading worship in all styles, for both the traditional and modern-worship services. This is

a rare occurrence when one considers many churches these days have to make do with recorded music or none at all. There are times when our own pianists/organists are assisting by playing at other churches in the Benefice.

Preparation, prayer, resourcing music and practising are all necessary to lead our growing congregations in their musical worship through singing songs and hymns, whether uplifting or for reflection. With a regular pattern of services each month, the lead musician and the service leader communicate to select appropriate songs /hymns. In addition, an enthusiastic group of singers loves to support the singing at weddings. Funerals and baptisms require musical input too. Choirs rehearse for special services, especially for the 9 Lessons and Carols at Christmas. The successful Christmas Tree Festival Praise continues to be held for those who enjoy a 'modern take' on carols.

The congregation at 9am Holy Communion has the opportunity to sing traditional hymns ably led by our organists. Occasionally a small choir, a new innovation directed by David, sings at this service.

10.30am Morning Worship tends towards contemporary songs or sometimes a mixture of old/new led by a varying group of musicians or the worship band. It has been encouraging to hear positive comments from members of the congregation and we are grateful to the Sound and AV team for their hard work behind the scenes to prepare for the services.

Evening Praise restarted last autumn and hopefully will become a regular monthly service of praise and reflection for those who wish for extended contemporary spirit-filled worship led by the band.

Also, let's not forget that St. Mary's is an excellent venue for concerts – an opportunity for outreach in our expanding village. Music is a vitally important part of our ministry at St. Mary's as we give glory to God.

"The true heart of worship gives glory only to God, not to itself. It is indeed all about Him." (Matt Redman -Christian song writer)

Jenny Hardy

12.Haddenham Bell Ringers

The St Mary the Virgin, Church at Haddenham Bell Ringers (the 'Ringers') have rung at all the Sunday services from January through to December 2023. The ringers have continued to ring for half an hour before Sunday morning services starting at 10.00 am through 2024, and commit to doing so for 2024, subject to their being a sufficient number of ringers who attend to ring.

The Ringers also rang for the following exceptional events during the year:

- The ringers took part in the National and Commonwealth wide ringing for the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla in the form of general ringing. After it was followed by a celebratory Quarter Peal of Grandsire Triples.
- This occasion of ringing were all part of Nationwide Ringing. On these occasions our Tower Captain Mr Phillip Rose and Steeple Keeper Mr Melvyn Rose were leading the ringers.

The Ringers rang for 5 weddings in 2023 where bells had been requested, with the help of ringers from various other local Towers. St Mary's Ringers will also reciprocate and help out at other local Towers if they are short of ringers at their Towers. There was an additional wedding at St Marys church, where the couple organised their own band of ringers to ring at the wedding.

Two further Quarter Peals were rung by the Ringers of Grandsire Doubles. There were no visiting bands of ringers whom St Mary's Ringers hosted during 2023. Practice nights on Wednesday evenings from 7.30 to 9 pm were held each Wednesday and were well attended with ringers from neighbouring Towers regularly attending. Ringing has been successful and the Ringers have added St Clements College Bob Triples to their repertoire of regularly rung methods. In addition the Ringers are adding Cambridge Major to their repertoire in addition. The Ringers have been able to ring all eight bells more regularly this year.

Sunday ringing has been more challenging as our Ringers are fewer in number since Covid lock down restrictions but the Ringers have managed to ring most Sundays. The Ringers had an AGM in 2023 with the usual reports on ringing activity for the year. Existing Officers for the Ringers, Mr Phillip Rose as Tower Captain, Mr Melvyn Rose assisted by Mr Michael Harrison as Steeple Keeper, Mr John Whitham as Treasurer, and Ms Linda Davies as Secretary, consented to and continued to carry out their duties so far as reporting, checking the Tower and the bells and Ringing Chamber and administration of the activities of the Ringers and use of St Marys Church Bells.

Mr. Phillip Rose our Tower Captain at St Mary's, Haddenham, has continued to wind the church clock every week.

On 5th November the Ringers were able to do their annual firing of the bells as is their tradition for Bonfire Night.

There was ringing for Remembrance Day in November, and for Christmas 2023 and to ring in the New Year for 2024.

The Ringers thanked Mr Phillip Rose for continuing to be Tower Captain, winding the clock, and leading ringing for the National events.

Mr Melvyn Rose, assisted by Mr Michael Harrison, have kindly continued to be the Steeple Keeper, and Assistant Steeple Keeper, for the Ringers for the last season of 2023 and into 2024, and they have continued with the bell maintenance.

The bells were inspected by Mr Melvyn Rose and Mr Michael Harrison in April 2023 and the following noted:

- The Treble Bell: had notable warping on the wheel. This had been reported on the previous year's report for the Haddenham bellringers. This was reported to St Marys Church.

St Marys Church obtained permission for a replacement to be fitted. The Bell Wheel was removed and taken to Whites of Appleton to use as a pattern for a new bell wheel to be made. That new bell wheel for the Treble has now been fitted and is working properly, having first had Whites of Appleby come out subsequent to fitting the new wheel, to make some adjustments.

- At the request of the Parish Administration the Church asked Whites of Appleby to make an inspection and full maintenance check on all the bells. Whites completed this and also did some minor remedial works required at the same time. Whites also made some recommendations for future actions for the bell maintenance which were:
- The stay on the Third Bell be replaced with an ash timber item; the existing stay is thought to be oak.
- Grease nipples are required for the Third and Fifth bell clappers.
- Additional bolts should be fitted to the bell stays where appropriate.
- Realign the pulley box on the Seventh bell to cure rope to bell wheel misalignment.

The Ringers thanked Mr Melvyn Rose for all his work in maintaining and monitoring the bells during the year, assisted by Mr Michael Harrison.

Mr John Whitham, Treasurer reported the following for the Ringers: There was an acceptable balance of funds in the Bell Fund currently, which is mostly held in cash and has not on average varied greatly between 2020 and the end of 2023. It remains solvent due to voluntary contributions from the Ringers and visiting ringing bands. There were, however, a number of expenses to be paid from the Fund in 2024.

The new Treble bell wheel was purchased at no cost to St Marys Church, at £1,497, which falls to be accounted for in the 2022/2023 year.

13.Churches Together in Haddenham (CTiH)

There is a covenant between the four churches in Haddenham to work together as a united Christian witness in the village. Events and services are held during the year which are organised by the committee which is made up of representatives from each of the churches. Mrs Marjorie Johnston from the Baptist Church is the current Chairperson.

'Open the Book': Every week a team of volunteers from each of the four churches have the privilege of visiting all the village schools to share this exciting Bible story-telling project with the children. It is fun, interactive and memorable.

Ascension Day Service and Celebration – Thursday 18 May: This was again not well attended and following discussions it has been agreed that this event will be discontinued.

Provision of Refreshments at the Village Fete – Saturday 10 June: Mrs Mary Miller from the Catholic Church once again organised and led a large team of helpers from all the churches to make cakes and serve refreshments from 12.30 – 17.00. This was a good united outreach and service to the village raising nearly £500 for the fete committee to use for village causes.

Lighthouse – August 21 – 25: This was a great event held in the grounds of the Junior School and it was a huge privilege for us all to work together. It built up relationships within the village churches and was a positive influence in the community. All the primary age children had a really good time led by a large team of volunteers from all the churches. The event will be repeated from 19 – 23 August 2024 and the theme will be 'Beside the Seaside'.

Feast Service – Sunday 24 September at 4.00 pm Church End Green: This was led by Rev Jonny Fillis assisted by Rev Cassa Messervy. Numbers were lower than on previous occasions and it is thought it may be losing its appeal, so it was agreed that we need to rethink the event.

Community Fair – Saturday 14 October in the Village Hall: A good number attended and Mrs Loraine Milmer organised the event. Once again, there was a rolling presentation running which included the addition of photographs from 'Lighthouse'. Rev Heegon Moon from the Methodist Church joined the volunteers in manning the stall.

'Warm Spaces': The 'Warm Spaces' last year was not as well attended as had been anticipated and so did not continue this year. There had been thoughts of organising a Day Club for one day a week as an alternative but when Mrs Marjorie Johnston and Mrs Loraine Milmer looked into it they found an excellent organisation in Thame called Thame Senior Friendship Society. They found this was running short of capacity and the organisers were willing to take people from Haddenham. It might be possible to look into something similar for Haddenham in the future and there are also thoughts about establishing a Community Garden.

Service of Personal Remembrance – Sunday 5 November at 3.00 pm: This service took place in the Baptist Church and was sensitively led by Rev Jonny Fillis and Rev Cassa Messervy; it was attended by 30-40 people.

Remembrance Day Service – Sunday 12 November at 10.15 am at St Mary's: This was a lovely service led by Rev Jonny Fillis of The Baptist Church. It was well attended by about 250 adults and 80 children.

Delivery of Welcome Bags: Every new home in the village has had a bag delivered and there has been some very positive feedback. The bags contain a tea light in a glass holder with the inscription 'Bless this House', a Welcome leaflet with local information and a flyer showing seasonal services in all four churches and are always very well received;

Christmas Crib Scene: This was displayed in the window at the Library, with accompanying information about the Christmas services across the village;

CTiH Village Carol Service – Friday 8 December in the Village Hall at 6.30 pm: Led by Rev Cassa Messervy and the Anglican Church with children from the Junior School performing Christmas songs and the Mummers also performed. It was well supported. Mince pies and drinks were served afterwards.

Carol Singing – Saturday 16 December in Haddenham Garden Centre 10.30 – 12 noon: This went well and was attended by an eclectic mix of people, with those visiting the Garden Centre joining in with the singing. Mr David Francis from the Baptist Church led on his keyboard. £70 was collected for Christian Aid. The Garden Centre had kindly prepared an area for us to use.

Service for Renewal of the CTiH Covenant – Saturday 20 January 2024: This was held in the Methodist Church and organised by Mrs Mary Miller of the Catholic Church. About 30 people attended and there was a lovely atmosphere. Mrs Ann Wallace and Mrs Mary Miller organised the breakfast afterwards.

World Day of Prayer – 7.00 pm Friday 1 March at The Church of the Good Shepherd: The service was compiled by the Christian women of Palestine about 2 years ago and was very poignant given the current situation. It was led by Mrs Mary Miller assisted by other members of the Catholic Church. It was very well attended by all the churches with representatives from each of the village churches taking an active part.

‘Big Question Tea’: This is a new initiative; a home group for children suggested by Tom and Vanessa, who have a young family. Young families from the Baptist and Methodist churches have also joined in with this and Mrs Mary Miller will be passing on information to young families at the Catholic church. The format is a Bible story or video followed by a song and craft activity.

Good Friday Procession and Service – 29 March 2024: A good number of people followed the cross, leaving Towns End Green at 10.15 am and at intervals the procession stopped for a Bible reading and singing. This was followed by a service in St Mary’s at 11.00 The service was led by Rev Clare Joyce and was well attended. A choir led by Mr David Quinn gave a lovely performance. Hot cross buns and tea/coffee prepared by Mrs Loraine Milmer and Mrs Janet Morgan were served afterwards.

Lighthouse Easter pop-up event:

This was a taster event for primary age children and took place in the Village Hall on Easter Saturday; emails were sent out to all who attended Lighthouse last year. There was a main stage and crafts etc. Breakfast baps were served

Easter Sunrise Service – 6.30 am 31 March 2024 in the Baptist burial ground – this was a lovely service led by Mrs Mary Miller and attended by 40 - 50 people, followed by a delicious breakfast kindly cooked and served in the Baptist Schoolroom by Mrs Katherine Robson and her friend Emma.

Jackie Harland

14. Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod met three times in this last year and was regularly updated on financial matters and also the deanery vacancy situation.

At the June meeting in All Saints church, Brill, we heard from James Wood, Discipleship Enabler for Buckinghamshire and Schools' Mission Advisor. James has responsibility for supporting the churches in the Buckingham Deanery with youth, children's and family ministry. He also provides specialist advice and support across the Diocese in relation to church engagement with schools and has experience of pioneering several youth work projects. His vision for the diocese is putting children at the centre of our life. Grants are available from the Diocese of Oxford Development Fund and there is also SMMI (Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment) funding. Consultations are going on at the moment.

The meeting in November was held at Holy Trinity, Aylesbury and our guest speaker was Alison Riggs, Environment Action Delivery Coordinator for the Oxford Diocese. She gave a presentation of Energy Audits and spoke about the Diocese's net zero target by 2030. She recommended parishes consider going for the ECO church awards, which integrate consideration for the environment into church life. Resources and guidance documents are available on EcoHub: Green Shoots Network is part of ECO church.

Revd Jennny Edmans, Assistant Priest in the Bernwode Benefice, reported that the Rest-a-While marquee at the Bucks County Show was very well attended with 900 hot drinks and 100 cakes being served. She gave thanks to everyone who had supported this event.

In March this year, at St Mary's Princes Risborough, we heard from Daniel Mbegbe from Compassion UK. Founded in 1952, Compassion is an international children's charity working in 29 countries and partnering with 8,500 local churches within communities experiencing poverty. Their heart is to give children and young people the opportunity to thrive and reach their God-given potential both now and into the future.

Chris Nurse

Financial Review

Total income in the year was £163,573 (2022: £152,492) comprising unrestricted income of £129,755 (2022: £114,597), designated fund income of £17,300 (2022: £20,202) and restricted fund income of £16,518 (2022: £17,696) of which £4,552 was from The Friends of St. Mary's (F.O.S.M.).

The PCC received no goods or services (other than the time of volunteers) free of charge or at a discounted rate.

Total expenditure in the year was £138,331 (2022: £128,479) comprising unrestricted expenditure of £114,918 (2022: £104,834), designated expenditure of £7,391 (2022: £18,306) and restricted fund expenditure of £16,412 (2022: £5,339).

There was net income for the year £25,242 (2022: £24,016). Donations, including those from regular monthly donors improved in part as a result of normalisation post Covid19.

The cash balance on the unrestricted fund as at 31st December 2023 was £173,343.

Reserves

The PCC's policy is to maintain reserves at a minimum of three month's operating expenses as well as holding good cash reserves to cover any unforeseen repairs that inevitably arise with the ownership of old properties.

The PCC is aware that it is holding funds in excess of the reserves policy amount and is formulating plans to use those funds for the public benefit. The PCC aims to enhance the spiritual life of the Parish of Haddenham as well as offering support to those in the Parish who are suffering hardship. The PCC also has a duty to maintain St Mary's Church, a very old Grade 1 listed building, as well as two other old buildings namely St Mary's Centre and Old School House.

Structure, Governance and Management

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure 1956. Appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules 2006. The charity is administered by its trustees, the PCC members.

Administrative Information

St Mary's Church meets at St Mary's Church, Church End, Haddenham Buckinghamshire HP17 8AJ. The Church is the lead Church in the Wychert Vale Benefice and forms part of the team ministry in the Diocese of Oxford. As at 31st December 2023 there were 124 Parishioners on the electoral roll (2022 107)

The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission registered number 1132319.

The address for correspondence for St Mary's Church is:-

St Mary's Church,

St Mary's Centre

Church End

Haddenham

Buckinghamshire

HP17 8AJ

The PCC gratefully acknowledges that the operation of the Church is heavily dependent on the commitment of the volunteers within the congregation in order to fulfil al its activities.

Other Relevant Organisations

Banks:

C.A.F Bank Ltd, west Malling Kent ME19 4JQ

Charity Bank, Tonbridge TN9 1BE

Skipton Building Society Taunton TA1 3LG

Lloyds Bank, Thame (Covenant Account)

Barclays Bank (F.O.S.M)

Independent Examiners: Miller & Co, 5 Imperial Court, Laporte Way, Luton LU4 8FE.

PCC members who have served during the year 2023 :-

Ex officio:

Rev Cassandra Messervy Rector (Chair)

Rev Philip Neil Groves Vicar

Rev Jonathan Desmond Hawkins Vicar

Deanery Synod representative:

Christopher Nurse FRSA

Adrian Collier (ex officio) deceased 2023

Elected members:

Timothy Eric Shaw appointed 18.5.2023

Dr Thomas William Elston appointed 18.5.2023

Vanessa Elston appointed 18.5.2023

Peter Goves

Julie Fell

Howard Charles Roberts

Gordon Douglas McCallum Lawson

Paul Smith

Valerie Walker Churchwarden

Trish Mander

Lorraine Anne Milmer

Christine Pamela Headlong Churchwarden

Dianne Brackley BSC

David Morris (ex officio treasurer) retired 18.5.2023

Tim Childs retired 18.5.2023

Graham Stoney retired 18.5.2023

Angela Matthews retired 18.5.2023

Ros Haworth retired 18.5.2023

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish

of St. Mary's Haddenham

Annual report for the year ended 31st December 2023

Elections to the PCC follows the Church representation rules published by the Church of England and a conscious effort is made to ensure it is both balanced and inclusive of the larger congregation.

This report was approved by the PCC on 23 April 2024 and signed on its behalf:-

V Walker

Rector

H Walker

Lead Treasurer

*Churchwarden
+ Trustee*

VALERIE WALKER

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary's
Haddenham**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total 2023	Total 2022
INCOME						
Voluntary income	2	96,402	-	15,088	111,490	108,060
Income from charitable activities	3	13,008	17,300	1,430	31,738	25,117
Income from investments		2,959	-	-	2,959	340
Income from church activities	4	34,964	-	-	34,964	42,627
Total Income		147,333	17,300	16,518	181,151	176,144
EXPENDITURE						
Church activities	6	132,106	8,688	16,412	157,206	152,128
Total Expenditure		132,106	8,688	16,412	157,206	152,128
Net income / (expenditure)		15,227	8,612	106	23,945	24,016
Transfer between funds	14	(7,110)	12,202	(5,092)		
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		8,117	20,814	(4,986)	23,945	24,016
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds brought forward	14	193,177	30,278	52,744	276,199	252,183
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		201,294	51,092	47,758	300,144	276,199

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Any small differences are due to rounding.

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary's Haddenham
Haddenham**

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023			2022
		General	Designated	Restricted	Total
					£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets		107,966	-	-	107,966
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	12	23,002	-	1,984	24,986
Cash at bank and In hand	11	79,035	53,907	54,059	187,001
		102,037	53,907	56,043	211,987
LIABILITIES					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	8,709	2,815	8,285	19,809
NET CURRENT ASSETS		93,328	51,092	47,758	192,178
NET ASSETS		201,294	51,092	47,758	300,144
CHARITY FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds	14	201,294	-	-	201,294
Designated funds	14	-	51,092	-	51,092
Restricted funds	14	-	-	47,758	47,758
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		201,294	51,092	47,758	300,144

The financial statements were approved by the PCC on 23 April 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

N Walker

The Revd. Cassa Messervy - Rector

*Church warden
a Trustee*

VALERIE WALKER

H Roberts

H Roberts - Treasurer

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary's
Haddenham**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

1.1 General information and basis of preparation

The PCC is a body corporate and a charity registered with the Charities Commission. The address of the registered office is given in the administrative details section of the trustees annual report.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities - the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice and comply with the PCC's governing document and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The financial statements are presented in pounds sterling and rounded to the nearest pound.

The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Hardship Fund.

The Hardship Fund is a confidential account under the control of the Rector and Church Wardens. Its income derives from collections at baptisms, weddings and funerals and occasional donations. As at the year end any monies in the embedded fund had been transferred to the separate account. Due to the closure of the building society account in which these funds were held, the monies are currently held as an embedded fund. It is hoped to hold them separately again in the future.

Thursday Morning Collections.

The St Mary's Thursday Morning communion services are held in the Catholic Church. Cash collections go into our General Fund which helps support our quarterly donation of £50 to the Catholic Church.

1.2 Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary's
Haddenham**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies (continued)

1.3 Income

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received. Voluntary income is recognised only when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under covenant or gift aid is recognised only when received and income tax recoverable on donations is recognised when the related donation is recognised. Grants and legacies are accounted for at the point the resources pass under the control of the PCC. Rental income from the letting of premises is recognised when the rental is due. Interest on bank accounts is recognised when receivable. All other income is recognised on an accrual basis.

1.4 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All grants and donations made by the church are approved by the PCC or made within guidelines laid down by the PCC. "Tithe" payments of up to 10% are allocated out of donated income. This amount is accrued for in the period in which the income is brought into account. The parish share of Diocesan central costs is accounted for when payable.

1.5 Fixed assets

Consecrated land and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by the Charities Act 2011. No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment.

Expenditure on 'other fixtures, fittings and office equipment' is written off when the assets are acquired.

Freehold property.

Freehold property represents St. Mary's Centre and The Old School House and is carried in the balance sheet at cost as it is a mixed-use asset. A formal valuation has not been made, however, the market value is considered to be not less than cost. Depreciation is charged at 2% on cost less estimated residual value of each asset on a systematic basis over their expected useful lives. As the estimated residual values are not less than cost, no depreciation is provided for.

1.6 Financial Instruments

The PCC only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments.

1.7 Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary's
Haddenham**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	2023			2022
	General	Designated	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£
2 Voluntary Income				
Planned Giving	55,161	-	-	55,161
Income Tax Recoverable	17,842	-	1,650	19,492
Other Collections/Giving	23,399	-	927	24,326
Grants	-	-	2,725	2,725
Donations	-	-	9,786	9,786
	96,402	-	15,088	111,490
				108,060

Voluntary income in 2022 was £108,060 of which £16,201 was attributable to restricted funds, £5,002 attributable to designated funds and £86,857 was attributable to unrestricted funds.

3 Income from charitable activities

Rent from letting of Old School House	-	17,300	-	17,300	15,200
Subscriptions - Friends of St Mary's	-	-	1,430	1,430	1,495
Other, Incl admin costs repayable by other Parishes/Diocese	13,008	-	-	13,008	8,422
	13,008	17,300	1,430	31,738	25,117

Income from activities for generating funds in 2022 was £25,117 of which £1,495 was attributable to restricted funds, £15,200 attributable to designated funds and £8,422 was attributable to unrestricted funds.

4 Income from church activities

Fees for weddings and funerals	23,365	-	-	23,365	29,807
Income from church hire	760	-	-	760	1,070
Income from St Mary's Centre hire	10,839	-	-	10,839	11,750
	34,964	-	-	34,964	42,627

Income from church activities in 2022 was £42,627 which was all attributable to unrestricted funds.

5 Non-church income

As per the Church of England Guide to Accounting and Reporting, non-church monies are excluded from the accounts. During the year £3,021 was collected on behalf of other organisations and reimbursed to them.

	2023				2022
	General	Designated	Restricted	Total	
	£	£	£	£	£
6 Expenditure on church activities					
Mission giving and donations:					
Charitable donations	200	-	6,427	6,627	2,348
Tithe payments	-	-	-	-	10,639
Diocesan parish share	56,322	-	-	56,322	55,465
Clergy and staffing costs:					
Staff costs	17,144	-	-	17,144	13,185
Clergy expenses	7,549	-	-	7,549	5,238
Church expenses:					
Church running expenses	6,041	-	-	6,041	7,354
Upkeep of services	2,350	278	118	2,746	308
Churchyard maintenance	3,817	-	-	3,817	3,338
Insurance	4,760	-	-	4,760	4,230
Outreach	1,337	-	-	1,337	174
Pastoral expenses	570	-	-	570	972
Training courses	1,600	-	-	1,600	342
Other professional services	150	-	-	150	-
Other office/general administrative expenses	2,491	-	315	2,806	1,478
Children and youth work	-	-	3,634	3,634	1,204
Church repairs and maintenance:					
Church building	-	958	4,222	5,180	1,655
Boiler	-	-	601	601	-
Audio visual equipment	-	-	1,095	1,095	-
Old School House expenses, repairs and maintenance	-	715	-	715	2,453
St Mary's Centre expenses, repairs and maintenance	8,697	6,737	-	15,434	17,596
Wedding and funeral expenses including Diocesan fees	17,578	-	-	17,578	23,649
Governance - independent examiner's remuneration	1,500	-	-	1,500	500
	132,106	8,688	16,412	157,206	152,128

Expenditure on church activities in 2022 was £152,128 of which £5,339 was attributable to restricted funds, £18,306 attributable to designated funds and £104,834 was attributable to unrestricted funds.

7 Trustees' and key management personnel remuneration and expenses

The trustees neither received nor waived any remuneration during the year (2022: same). The trustees did not have any expenses reimbursed during the year except that sometimes trustees act as agents for the PCC and make approved purchases on its behalf and are reimbursed for this expenditure. On no occasion has that reimbursement been personal to the Trustee concerned (2022: same).

Ordained members of the clergy receive their stipends directly from the Church of England. All out of pocket expenses paid to our clergy are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities Report.

8 Independent examiner's remuneration

	2023	2022
	£	£
Independent Examiner's fee	750	500
Other financial services	750	-
	1,500	500

9	Staff Costs	2023	2022
		£	£
	Gross Salaries	16,867	12,928
	Employer's National Insurance		-
	Employer's Pension Contributions	277	257
	Total	17,144	13,185
	Average number of Employees	0.74	0.74
	No employees received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000.		
10	Tangible fixed assets	2023	2022
		£	£
	Land and buildings		
	Cost at 1 January 2023	107,966	107,966
	Cost at 31 December 2023	107,966	107,966
11	Cash at Bank and In Hand	2023	2022
		£	£
	CAF Current Account	33,214	79,717
	CAF Business cards	1,027	-
	Charity Bank	51,627	30,873
	Covenant Account (Lloyds)	5,321	14,108
	Skipton Building Society	82,081	-
	Melton Mowbray Building Society	-	30,023
	Petty Cash	73	50
	Friends of St Mary's (Bardays) (also see Note 17)	13,658	10,636
		187,001	165,406
12	Debtors	2023	2022
		£	£
	Trade Debtors	11,603	8,852
	HMRC (Gift Aid)	7,815	6,033
	HMRC (Gift Aid Restricted)	1,323	1,004
	FOSM	606	374
	Resources Fund	-	2,772
	Other Debtors	3,639	2,653
		24,986	21,689
13	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2023	2022
		£	£
	Trade Creditors	3,970	269
	Accruals	4,653	4,649
	Other Creditors	9,683	9,387
	Payroll Clearing	(112)	170
	Resources Fund	-	2,772
	Tenancy Deposit	1,615	1,615
		19,809	18,862

14 Fund reconciliation

	Balance at 31/12/2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31/12/2023 £
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	193,177	129,755	(114,528)	(7,110)	201,294
	193,177	129,755	(114,528)	(7,110)	201,294
Designated funds					
Parish Weekend	135	-	-	(135)	-
Social Events Fund	897	-	-	(897)	-
Church Furnishings Fund (Altar Frontal Repairs)	3,508	-	-	(3,008)	500
Music Fund (Rushton Bequest)	278	-	(278)	-	-
Mission Fund	278	-	-	(278)	-
Tithe Unspent	2,953	-	-	9,671	12,624
Old School House Refurb Fund	-	-	(715)	715	-
General Resources Designated Fund	22,229	17,300	(7,695)	6,134	37,968
	30,278	17,300	(8,688)	12,202	51,092
Restricted funds					
Children and Young People (CYP)	19,768	3,120	(3,634)	-	19,254
Easter Lilies Fund	26	114	(60)	(80)	-
Hardship Fund	1,711	-	-	-	1,711
Christmas Tree Festival	2,174	3,340	(4,969)	-	545
Christmas Collections	845	765	(1,457)	-	153
Hymn Book Fund	58	-	(58)	-	-
Bruce Clark Aperitif Recital Organ Fund	3,160	-	-	-	3,160
Welcome Packs Deanery Grant	167	-	-	-	167
Church Enhancement (Prev. Millennium) Fund	4,646	-	-	(69)	4,577
Masquerade Ball Fund	1,171	-	-	(1,171)	-
Weekend Away Fund	3,925	-	-	-	3,925
Leaving Collections	-	315	(315)	-	-
FOSM	9,714	4,552	-	-	14,266
Boiler Fund	1,159	90	(601)	(648)	-
SMC Heating Appeal	710	-	-	(710)	-
Old School House Refurb Fund	3,131	-	-	(3,131)	-
Church Maintenance Grants	-	4,222	(4,222)	-	-
Audio Visual Fund	379	-	(1,096)	717	-
	52,744	16,518	(16,412)	(5,092)	47,758
	276,199	163,573	(139,628)	-	300,144

During this financial period the PCC approved the transfer of a number of funds to General Fund and also the amalgamation of some funds that had duplicate purposes. You can see these fund movements under the column marked transfers.

To improve definitions between restricted and/or designated funds, certain monies (historically called restricted in error) were reallocated to designated and therefore optically appears as a debit, this is a one-off.

Fund descriptions

Unrestricted funds

All transactions relating to the general ecclesiastical and charitable activities of St. Mary's Haddenham, are contained in this fund.

Designated funds

Church Furnishings Fund (Altar Frontal Repairs)

This fund contains a specific donation of £500 for Altar Frontal Repairs with the balance after PCC approval being transferred to the General Fund.

Tithe Unspent

Each year 10% of Church income is set aside for donations to charities both at home and abroad. The balance shown is awaiting decisions from PCC on suitable destinations for those funds.

14 Fund reconciliation (continued)

General Resources Designated Fund

This fund is maintained at a reasonable level to cover maintenance and repair costs for the Church, Old School House and St Mary's Centre. All our buildings are rather old and it is PCC decision to hold these funds to cover unforeseen costs so often associated with older buildings.

Restricted funds

Children and Young People (CYP)

This balance is made up of specific donations where the donors have stressed that the monies are to be used for activities suitable for children and young people.

Hardship Fund

This fund has been set aside specifically to help those people in our Parish who need some temporary financial assistance. The fund is administered by the Rector.

Christmas Tree Festival and Christmas collections

Both these fund balances represent HMRC Gift Aid payments which have now been paid out to the charities nominated by PCC.

Bruce Clark Aperitif Recital Organ Fund

These funds were raised for the maintenance of the Church organ and are in memory of the late Bruce Clark, an organist who organised recitals in Church for several years.

Welcome Packs Deanery Grant

A self explanatory fund which pays for each family, moving into our parish, to have a pack of useful local information about our Church and other Village activities.

Church Enhancement (Prev. Millennium) Fund

This fund is the balance of substantial donations received in 2000 for Church fabric enhancement.

F.O.S.M.

Friends of St Mary's fund which raises money at various events that is used solely for the upkeep of the Church building.

	Balance at 31/12/2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31/12/2022 £
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	182,116	115,895	(104,834)	-	193,177
	182,116	115,895	(104,834)	-	193,177
Designated funds					
Parish Weekend	135	-	-	-	135
Holiday at home	279	-	(279)	-	-
Social Events Fund	897	-	-	-	897
Ordinand fund	112	-	(112)	-	-
Church Furnishings Fund (Altar Frontal Repairs)	3,508	-	-	-	3,508
Music Fund (Rushton Bequest)	278	-	-	-	278
Mission Fund	-	278	-	-	278
Tithe Unspent	1,824	2,953	(1,824)	-	2,953
General Resources Designated Fund	21,350	15,673	(16,091)	1,297	22,229
	28,383	18,904	(18,306)	1,297	30,278
Restricted funds					
Children and Young People (CYP)	17,644	3,328	(1,204)	-	19,768
Easter Lilies Fund	5	21	-	-	26
Hardship Fund	55	2,271	(615)	-	1,711
Christmas Tree Festival	1,562	1,954	(1,342)	-	2,174
Christmas Collections	-	845	-	-	845
Hymn Book Fund	-	366	(308)	-	58
Bruce Clark Aperitif Recital Organ Fund	-	3,160	-	-	3,160
Welcome Packs Deanery Grant	445	-	(278)	-	167
Church Enhancement (Prev. Millennium) Fund	4,646	-	-	-	4,646
Masquerade Ball Fund	2,421	-	(1,250)	-	1,171
Weekend Away Fund	3,925	-	-	-	3,925
FOSM	7,241	3,770	-	(1,297)	9,714
Boiler Fund	979	180	-	-	1,159
SMC Heating Appeal	710	-	-	-	710
Old School House Refurb Fund	1,331	1,800	-	-	3,131
Audio Visual Fund	721	-	(342)	-	379
	41,685	17,695	(5,839)	(1,297)	52,744
	252,184	152,494	(128,479)	-	276,199

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Fixed assets	107,966	-	-	107,966
Current assets	102,037	53,907	56,043	211,987
Current liabilities	(8,709)	(2,815)	(8,285)	(19,809)
	<u>201,294</u>	<u>51,092</u>	<u>47,758</u>	<u>300,144</u>

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Fixed assets	107,966	-	-	107,966
Current assets	99,408	34,665	53,022	187,095
Current liabilities	(14,197)	(4,387)	(278)	(18,862)
	<u>193,177</u>	<u>30,278</u>	<u>52,744</u>	<u>276,199</u>

16 Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions during the period (2022: same).

17 Friends of St Mary's Fund

	2023 £	2022 £
Income		
Subscriptions	1,430	1,495
Donations	2,795	1,570
Income Tax Recoverable	<u>327</u>	<u>705</u>
	<u>4,552</u>	<u>3,770</u>
Expenditure		
Donation to Resources		<u>1,297</u>
Net Income	<u>4,552</u>	<u>2,473</u>
Fund Balance B/fwd	<u>9,714</u>	<u>7,241</u>
Balance C/fwd	<u><u>14,266</u></u>	<u><u>9,714</u></u>
Balance Sheet	2023	2022
Current Assets		
Bank	13,660	10,637
Debtors	<u>606</u>	<u>374</u>
	<u>14,266</u>	<u>11,011</u>
Less Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
Creditors and Accruals		<u>1,297</u>
Fund Balance	<u><u>14,266</u></u>	<u><u>9,714</u></u>

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish
of St. Mary's Haddenham

**Independent examiners report to the trustees of The Parochial Church Council of the
Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary's Haddenham**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 1 to 10.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared the accounts (financial statements) in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has since been withdrawn.

We understand that this has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mr R A Cox FCA
Miller & Co, Chartered Accountants
5 Imperial Court, Laporte Way
Luton, LU4 8FE

23 April 2024